

DAILY RECORD-UNION

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1884

The Record-Union is the only paper on the coast, outside of San Francisco, that receives the full Associated Press dispatches from all parts of the world. Outside of San Francisco it has no competitor, in point of numbers, in a home and general circulation throughout the coast. Challenges of two to 100,000, covering points above, extended to local evening paper, remain open for acceptance.

S. C. Beckwith, "Tribune" Building, New York, sole agent for the Eastern States. Wm. Cameron, No. 8 New Montgomery street, San Francisco, special agent for San Francisco and vicinity.

THIS MORNING'S NEWS.

In New York Government bonds were quoted at 110 1/2; for 4 of 1897, 112 1/2; for 4 1/2; sterling, \$8 3/4; 4 1/2; 10 for 35; silver bars, \$164.

Silver in London, 96 1/2; consols, 101 1/2; 4 1/2; 10 for 35; sterling, \$8 3/4; 4 1/2; 10 for 35; silver bars, \$164.

San Francisco Mexican dollars are quoted at 85 1/2 cents.

Mining stocks are not active in San Francisco, and there are no marked fluctuations in values.

The gain of a few cents in one board is lost at the succeeding session, affording little encouragement to operators.

The largest number of shares transferred yesterday morning was in Consolidated Virginia, but as this stock can be had at 20 cents per share, the purchase of a round lot does not necessitate any heavy investment.

A storm on Lake Michigan Tuesday night caused several lives to be lost.

Blaine left Canton, O., yesterday for Massillon, where he reviewed an imposing procession and addressed the people.

Edwin Booth will commence an engagement at Beldin in February.

General John K. Murray died in Seneca Falls, N. Y., yesterday, from a heart attack.

A number of officers on English men-of-war have been arrested for embezzling ship's stores.

A cyclone on the island of Sicily killed twenty persons, injured fifty others, and destroyed houses.

General Logan went from Washington to Philadelphia yesterday.

Spain has granted France the same trade privileges in the West Indies as are enjoyed by the United States.

The Mexican Veterans are holding a reunion in St. Louis.

John Oglethorpe, while out hunting near Camp, Tennille, Ga., was accidentally shot and killed himself.

The Central Baptist Association is in session at Wheatland, Wyo., today.

A new cable is being laid between Dunsmuir, W. T., and Cuba Point, Vancouver Island.

The Steamship Queen of the Pacific and West will call Tuesday night at Victoria, B. C., the latter being considerably damaged.

John Jewell was found dead in his bed at San Francisco yesterday, having evidently committed suicide.

In the recent town elections in Connecticut, the Republicans made considerable gains.

A Republican meeting was broken up at Wadsworth, Md., by a mob.

George Gillespie was run over by a train near Ottumwa, Mo., Tuesday, and killed.

The Mechanics' Bank of Albion, Pa., has closed its doors.

Incendiary fires continue at Cleveland.

John Quincy Adams, senator at Quincy, Mass., for Congress, declines to run.

The Virginia Straight-out Republicans propose to withdraw their entire Electoral ticket.

Sullivan, the singer, declares that he has stopped drinking for all time, and in future is determined to take care of himself.

Mad. S. trod a half mile in 1903, at Hartford, making the last quarter in 30 1/2 seconds.

The El Reno, Okla., was wrecked on Tuesday, and was organized yesterday at Placerville.

The bombardment of Tientsin, China, by the French fleet, is still in progress.

The storming of Tanjore has been postponed.

T. Caine for delegate to Congress.

The law in New York forbidding the manufacture of cigars in tenement houses has been declared unconstitutional.

The Congressional Association of California is in session at Stockton.

AN IMPORTANT SUBJECT.

There is now under consideration by the State Grand Jury of the Patrons of Husbandry—in annual session in this city—the subject of premium lists at agricultural fairs. It is a topic of much interest. It is the conviction of all who have given the subject thought that the premium lists adopted by the agricultural societies of this State are very defective. They appear to have been formulated upon the principle of money rewards—a misconception in the outset. The premiums are disproportionate, are often vague and uncertain, and the competition invited is frequently of such a character that the award really amounts to nothing as a stimulus to industry, inventive genius or production.

Thus, it is a common thing to find in the same class a like premium for "best sample" and "best specimen." But one out of one hundred is able to make the distinction between these two terms when examining exhibits, and the result uniformly is, where there are two competitors, to "shift the responsibility," and give one the premium for the "best sample" and the other for the "best specimen." Many of the classes call for goods of American manufacture, but no proof is required as to the origin of the product, and the committees are driven to accept theipse dixit of the exhibitors. It is notorious that frauds are perpetrated in consequence.

Then, again, there appears to be nothing to prevent the same piece of landwork from taking a leading premium year after year, to the discouragement of fresh competitors. Still again, amateurs, by the aid of teachers, impose handicaps upon the Society, and receive awards over untried workers. In other classes there is failure to distinguish between the finest display and best home-product display that seriously handicaps home industry. We know of one instance where this grievance so roused the sense of justice of one board of judges that, while forced to award to "A," the premiums listed for "B" display, it unanimously recommended "B" for the premium list to "B," setting forth that his exhibits were of American manufacture, excellently serviceable, practical, useful and deserving of encouragement, but that by the premium list "B" was totally shut out by the arbitrary, conventional "best."

These are but drops in the bucket; mere incidents in long lists of abuses, traditions and the general muddle-headedness of premium lists. We have not touched upon defects in the premium lists for stock, but there are similar complaints of inequalities in that department of fairs. It is notorious, we repeat, that our fair premium lists, taken as a mass, are very far from satisfactory. They excite an impression of ignorance in many respects. For instance, premiums are offered for the best exhibit of certain goods or certain manufactures, by which articles of like material but wholly dissimilar character and uses are thrown into competition. To illustrate: We have known statutory and chimney pots, andirons and artistic ornamentation, wash-basins and sideboard ware, articles of decoration and articles for the homiest uses to be thrown into the same class and forced into competition, though in art industry and commercial fields the makers of any one are not recognized as rivals of any of the others in any sense whatever. Then there are great gaps in the premium lists—omissions, by which a variety of useful products are excluded from rivalry. So, too, the amounts of money given in premiums are in very many cases inconsiderable, and proportioned to the effort of competition. It is not possible to enumerate all the defects

PACIFIC SLOPE.

It is not possible that the State Grange will be able to suggest remedies for these ills. Boards of Agriculture for years have labored in that direction, and have made but little progress. They are driven to make up very much to their premium lists by pressure of varying interests, and the demands of special producers and manufacturers instead of their own sense of justice. There seems to be no firm lack of breadth of consideration, something of a lack of courage and a long continuing failure to rise to the true level of the purpose of awards at fairs. They should never be treated as financially compensatory, or as other than tokens of merit. It is an open question whether the entire premium list system, so far as money awards are concerned, should be abandoned. We are strongly inclined to believe that a system of ribbon decorations, medals and certificates, would be far preferable. The growers of a new product, the manufacturer of a new machine, never parade to the world the amount of the premium received. If it has advertising value at all, they never go beyond the announcement "first premium awarded to," etc. The amount of money, therefore, enters no item in the exhibit, so far as the value of an award to the exhibitor is concerned. What he desires is the judgment of the association that his article is "best," and it matters nothing whether the token is \$5 or \$25. By abolishing utterly the money premiums, and substituting decorations, a great economy would be conserved, and a test applied to the charge that our people must be "paid" for exhibiting goods at fairs, and they will not be so easily led to do so.

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VILE TACTICS.

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